

School of Social Work
Center for Community Education
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Kilmer Campus- Building 4087
New Brunswick, N.J. 08903
Newark Campus- Hill Hall
Room 422

ESSEX COUNTY AIDS NETWORK

MEETING MINUTES MAY 2, 1990

Following up the last meeting in March, at which state legislation relative to HIV-AIDS was reviewed, this month we heard a review of some key federal legislation. We were fortunate to have Steve Young, Director of the Care and Treatment Unit of the Division of AIDS Prevention and Control, share with us some insights into the progress we've made in the last three to four years. He also briefly reviewed some recent federal initiatives including the C.A.R.E. Act (comprehensive AIDS Relief Emergency Act), the Americans with Disabilities Act and legislation introduced by Cong. Waxman which, if enacted, might have long range effects on funding of services.

Ron Weiss, AIDS Counselor from the East Orange Health Department, prepared a brief report on the national conference he attended in Baltimore. Sponsored by Johns Hopkins University, it featured presenters from the International, as well as the National scene. Among the many issues discussed at workshops and symposia, were clinical treatment of AZT, other drug therapies, delivery of health care, prevention and education, HIV risk for clinicians and health care workers, citizen advocacy for public health, discrimination and societal attitudes, general trends and immunology.

One of the statistics he shared with us was that the percentage of patients admitted to emergency rooms who tested HIV+ increased from 3% in 1986, to 7 1/2% in 1989.

In addition to these two presentations, discussion centered on the role of the network in providing a forum for information sharing and community input for future planning and funding decisions, at all levels of government.

To this end, Richard Powell, Newark AIDS Coordinator shared with us a basic framework for developing a community consensus around HIV/AIDS. This document is enclosed with the minutes. At the June 6 ECAN meeting, we plan to devote time to: a) discussion/defining/identifying goals and objectives of the Network; b) future planning and advisory role; c) enhancing advocacy role; d) information sharing role; e) interfacing with other HIV/AIDS groups which are forming.

According to Steve Young, information sharing of the quality which goes on at Network meetings is becoming more integral to future federal funding. Can the Network serve this role, and develop a structure or mechanism which could serve as a vehicle for planning, strategizing and intergrating, services and programs?

Please think seriously about the issues raised in Richard's enclosure and at the meeting. Talk to folks in your agencies and in your communities. Come to the meeting prepared to contribute your ideas.

NEXT MEETING
JUNE 6, 1990
10 A.M. TO 12 NOON
ROBESON CAMPUS CENTER
RUTGERS-NEWARK
350 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM 232

END NOTE: Dear Colleagues and Friends;

⁴In the short time that I have spent with you, developing the Network, learning to match names, faces, and agencies, I have grown to respect you tremendously. I have been impressed by your professionalism and your dedication. I know that no matter where I go from here, I will always remember you with awe and love.

Ruth